



Gary Collins

April 26, 1949 - April 24, 2023

Gary Dean Collins, age 73, passed away on Monday, April 24, 2023. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Sandra (née Bielak); beloved children, Christopher (Analisa) and Keith (Rachel); cherished grandchildren, Kaleigh, Natalie and Chloe; adoring sister Linda Cassavoy, as well as many dear nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents James Collins and Helen Joyce Sylvester and niece, Amber Cassavoy.

Gary was born on April 26, 1949, in Prestonsburg, Kentucky and later moved to Michigan. At age 15 he met the love of his life, Sandra, and they wed on August 21, 1971. He attended Wayne State University, earning a Bachelor's Degree and began teaching in 1971. Over the next 34 years, he worked as an educator in the Warren Consolidated School District and retired from Warren Mott High School as a special education teacher in 2005. During his career he earned a Master's Degree in Special Education, coached girls basketball, served as athletic and activity director and was a member of the Booster Club. After retiring from Warren Mott High School, he continued on as a special education consultant at Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA).

Gary was a kind man of faith and devoted his time to church and the community. He became a member of Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church in 1975 and for the next 48 years served as both an Elder and Session member. He taught Sunday School for both youth and adults, coordinated ice cream

socials, led CROP Hunger Walks and coached the church's baseball team. He also held day camps for the Salvation Army during his summers off.

Family was everything to Gary and he and Sandy welcomed everyone into their home. He always made time to help others and would offer words of encouragement, advice and guidance. He was a huge Detroit sports fan and enjoyed watching the University of Michigan basketball team. He loved country music, especially Vince Gill, and taking car trips down south with his family.

Anyone who knew Gary knew that he was the most loving husband, father, sibling, papa, uncle, friend and mentor a family could ask for. He will be loved and missed by all.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 28. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Instate

APR 29. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church
11451 East 10 Mile Road
Warren, MI 48089
<http://celticcross.org>

Funeral Service

APR 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church
11451 East 10 Mile Road
Warren, MI 48089
<http://celticcross.org>

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Collins

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ Coaching with Gary was a privilege. The example he set for his players and his staff was always perfect. God's blessings to the family.

Rick Muehl - April 28, 2023 at 10:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Collins.



April 28, 2023 at 03:08 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gary Collins.



April 28, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Collins.*



April 28, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Collins.*



April 27, 2023 at 10:58 PM



“ *Gary was a man who enjoyed sharing God’s word through adult studies and involvement in his church, Celtic Cross Presbyterian. He love teaching students in the Warren Consolidated School district. I will miss his leadership and friendship in the Education subcommittee that I worked with him for years*

Kathy Nicosia - April 27, 2023 at 06:11 PM



He was a kind, wonderful, caring person. God bless.

Peg Dunlop - April 27, 2023 at 06:39 PM



“ *May God comfort the entire host of family and friends.*

Pamela - April 27, 2023 at 05:07 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Collins.



April 27, 2023 at 05:03 AM



“ Gary, and all the Collins family, have been a big part of my childhood, and current life. They are my extended family. Gary was like a father figure growing up, and always went out of his way to look after all us kids. He taught us life lessons in a way nobody else could have. You will be missed Gary. RIP

Henry Wiczerza - April 26, 2023 at 11:37 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Collins.



April 25, 2023 at 06:36 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gary Collins.



April 25, 2023 at 05:26 PM

K(

“ Coach was more than just a coach to me. He was a father figure during my years at WMHS. He would spot me in the weight room when I wanted to get stronger. He would rebound for me after school on days I didn't want to go home and deal with my family life. He believed in me when there were times I didn't believe in myself. We kept in touch for a while after I moved to GR and an alumni game a few years back. You will never be forgotten. Rest peacefully in the arms of our Savior, Sir.

Katie Swenson (Wagner) - April 25, 2023 at 04:28 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary Collins.



April 25, 2023 at 01:56 AM

BR

“ Uncle Gary Was one of the kindest people I've ever known. He played an instrumental role in my life and there will be a void that no one else could fill. He was a kind man of faith; always giving, always sharing, always there for me & my family. May he rest in peace.

Bridgette - April 25, 2023 at 01:52 AM

JM

“ Gary was a kind man, devoted to God, loving husband to Sandy and a wonderful father and uncle to his family. He was a teacher, he was my Sunday school teacher, and my youth leader. He loved to play softball and wallyball. Sending my thoughts and prayers to his family. May you all find peace and comfort in the memories you share.

Janet McAllister - April 24, 2023 at 11:48 PM

JB

“ Way too many great memories to share... Gary was am awesome uncle... and... great mentor...weather it was a pick up basketball game... or how tho throw a better curveball... he was always there to help us improve our game...and.... Become better people 😊

Jeffrey Bielak - April 24, 2023 at 07:35 PM